GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1264
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT NATIONAL PARKS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether poaching in the Corbett National Park continues unabatedly to the extent that a Dy. Ranger was killed and some forest guards injured by the poachers sometimes in the last week of August, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined the reasons for failure of the security arrangements made so far in protecting the animals in various parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to firmly tackle the ever-growing poaching of protected animals in the country?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) & (b): Six instances of poaching of elephants between 21th December, 2000 and 10th February, 2001 were reported by Uttaranchal Government. Consequent to these killings, infrastructure has been reinforced and elaborate combing of the forests has been done. In one such exercise, Deputy Ranger Shri Bipin Chandra Pandey lost his life in an encounter with miscreants on 28th August, 2001 and 3 other forest officials were injured.

(c) & (d): Parts and products of elephant, tiger and panther, musk pods, bear bile have very lucrative price in the illegal market across our borders and in many developed countries. The high pecuniary gains have created a large network of organised mafias across the country. The limited staff within the Forest Department and lack of adequate mobility, effective communication network, technical skills in intelligence gathering for detection of poaching cases and delayed prosecution in courts are major limitations before the forest officials in meeting the increasing challenge of poaching and illegal trade.

(e) The efforts made for protection of tiger and other wildlife in the country are

i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) act, 1972.

ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the State under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.

iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehendand prosecute wildlife offenders.

iv) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

v) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.